

**ANNUAL REPORT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA
2020-2021**

COMPLAINTS PENDING & RECEIVED:

Complaints Pending June 30, 2020	36	
Complaints Received July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	213	
Total Complaints Pending and Received		<u>249</u>

DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS:

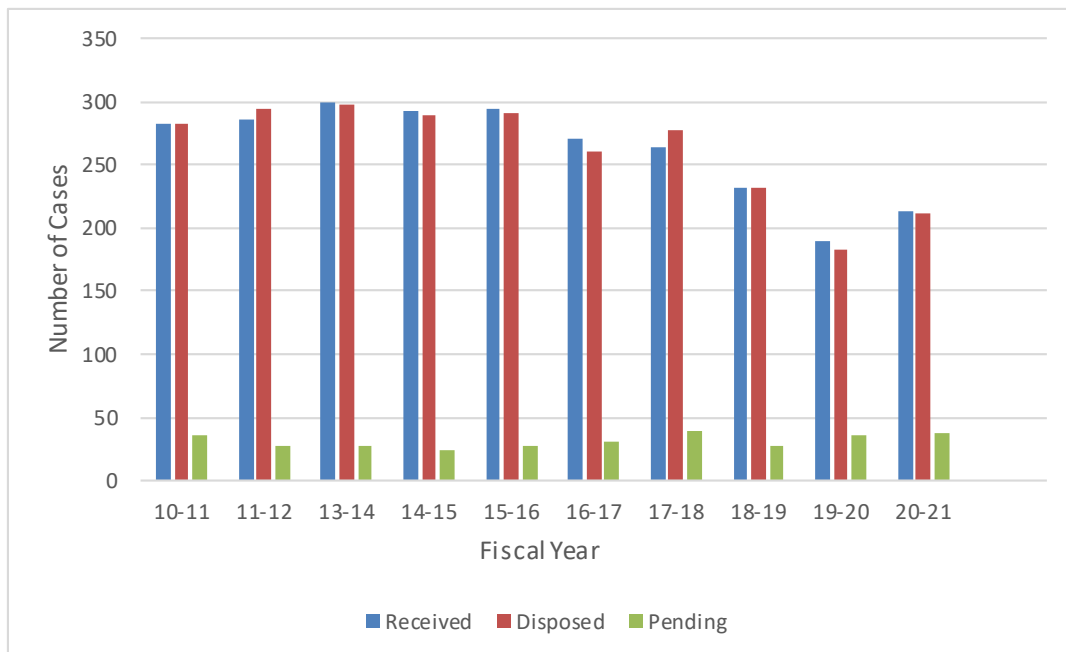
Dismissed:

By Disciplinary Counsel after initial review (no jurisdiction)	136	
By Disciplinary Counsel after investigation (lack of evidence)	50	
By Investigative Panel	11	
By Supreme Court	0	
Total Dismissed		<u>197</u>

Not Dismissed:

Referred to Other Agency	0	
Closed But not Dismissed	0	
Closed Due to Death	0	
Deferred Discipline Agreement	0	
Letter of Caution	10	
Admonition	4	
Public Reprimand	1	
Suspension	0	
Removal From Office	0	
Total Not Dismissed		<u>15</u>

Total Complaints Resolved	<u>212</u>
Total Complaints Pending as of June 30, 2021	<u>37</u>



JUDICIAL POSITION:

Circuit	29.72%	Less than 1%
Magistrate	26.89%	Referee
Family	15.57%	
Probate	10.38%	
Municipal	6.13%	
Appellate	5.66%	
Master-In-Equity	2.36%	
Unknown	2.36%	

SOURCE OF COMPLAINT:

Litigant	82.08%	Less than 1%
Family/Friend of Litigant	3.30%	Self-Report
Citizen	2.83%	Anonymous
Attorney	1.89%	Public Official/Agency/Law Enforcement
Unknown	1.89%	Employee
Family/ Friend of Witness/Victim	1.42%	
Disciplinary Counsel	1.42%	
Litigation Witness/Victim	1.42%	
Judge	1.42%	

CASE TYPE:

Criminal	35.85%	Less than 1%
General Civil	17.45%	Debt Collection/Foreclosure
Domestic	16.98%	Professional Malpractice
Probate/Estate Planning	9.91%	Contract Disputes
Real Estate	5.19%	Personal Injury /Property Damage
Not Court Related	3.77%	Other
Unknown	3.77%	
Landlord/Tenant	3.33%	
Post-Conviction Relief	1.42%	

ALLEGED MISCONDUCT:

Fairness/Bias/Prejudice	31.13%	Criminal Conduct	1.42%
Unknown	15.57%	Supervision	1.42%
Diligence	11.32%		
Other	9.43%	Less than 1%	
Temperament/Civility	8.49%	Maintaining Decorum	
Disqualification/Recusal	7.55%	Political Activity/Campaign	
Ex Parte Communication	6.13%	Supervision/Employee/Admin	
Competence	3.3%		
Improper Influence/Use of Position	2.83%		

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS:

Meetings of Investigative Panels	4
Formal Charges Filed	0
Formal Charges Hearings	0
Incapacity Proceedings	0
Meetings of Full Commission	0

REQUESTS FOR DISMISSAL REVIEW:

Requests for Review by Complainant	1
Dismissal Affirmed by Panel	1
Case Remanded for Further Investigation	<u>0</u>
Dismissal Reviews Pending	0

JUDGES BEING MONITORED:

New Monitor Files Opened	0
Judges Currently Monitored	0

SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DISCIPLINARY ORDERS*:

Dismissal	0
Letter of Caution	0
Admonition	0
Public Reprimand	1
Definite Suspension	0
Removal from Office	0
Transfer to Incapacity Inactive	0
Interim Suspension	1

*These figures represent the number of orders issued by the Supreme Court, not the number of complaints resolved. One disciplinary order might conclude multiple complaints.

COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO SUPREME COURT:

Complaints resolved	1
Pending as of June 30, 2021	1